

UK Patent Application

GB 2 233 150 A

(19) Date of A publication 02.01.1991

(21) Application No 8913914.1

(22) Date of filing 16.06.1989

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(51) INT CL⁵
H01K 1/06

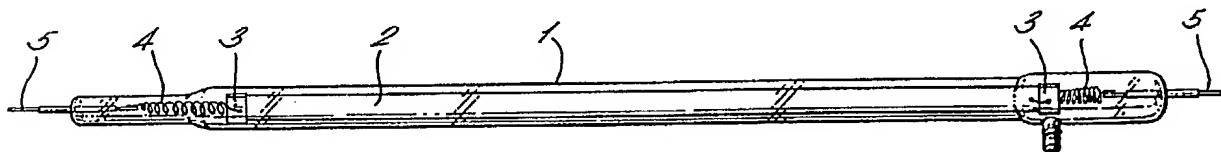
(52) UK CL (Edition K)
H1F FJ F2A1C1 F2D2B F2D2X F2D6E2 F2E1EY
F2E1E1 F2N1 F2N4
H5H HBE1 H100 H104 H121 H157 H175 H179
H231 H232

(56) Documents cited
None

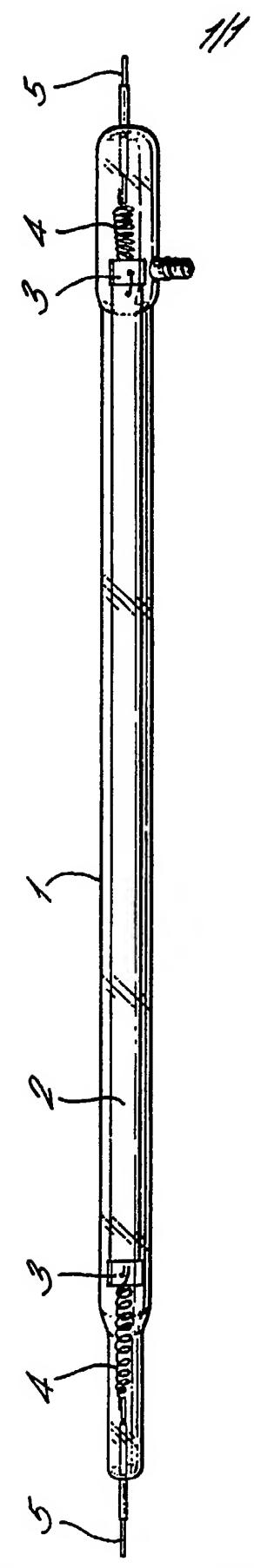
(58) Field of search
UK CL (Edition J) H1F FJ, H5H HBE1
INT CL⁴ H01K

(54) Infra-red radiation source

(57) There is provided an infra-red radiation source which comprises a tube 1 of infra-red radiation transparent material containing an electrical conductor 2 formed of carbon fibres, which is connected across an electrical power supply. The tube is sealed and may either be evacuated or filled with a gas such as argon at sub-atmospheric pressure. This provides a radiation source with a fast response time, operable at temperatures up to 1200°C for example.



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INFRA-RED RADIATION SOURCE

This invention relates to an infra-red radiation source.

Infra-red radiation sources are used as heat sources in commercial process ovens, domestic cooker hot plates and ovens, and radiant energy electrical heaters, and there is a requirement for such sources which have a fast response time when energised, and which can operate at relatively high temperatures, for example up to 1200°C.

According to this invention there is provided an infra-red radiation source comprising a tube of infra-red radiation transparent material containing an electrical conductor formed of carbon fibres, and connection means for connecting the conductor across an electrical power supply.

This invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the drawing which is a diagrammatic perspective view of an infra-red radiation source according to the invention.

Referring to the drawing, the source comprises a tube 1 of infra-red radiation transparent material, for example a ceramic material such as quartz, which contains an electrical conductor 2 in the form of a flat strip formed of carbon fibres. At each end the strip 2 is terminated by a metal member 3 which is electrically connected by a coiled metal wire conductor 4 to connection means comprising a terminal member 5

which extends outside the tube 1. When the two terminal members 5 are connected across a suitable electrical power supply the source emits infra-red radiation.

The tube 1 is sealed and either is evacuated or contains a gas such as argon at sub-atmospheric pressure.

Otherwise an expansion chamber can be connected to the tube 1, the tube 1 and expansion chamber then together forming a sealed environment for the conductor 2 which is thus kept within its own reaction gases and inhibiting any further reaction.

Although in the source described above the carbon fibre electrical conductor 2 is in the form of a flat strip, it will be appreciated that it can otherwise be of other cross-section, for example round or shaped. Further, it will also be appreciated that the metal wire conductor 4 need not be coiled.

CLAIMS

1. An infra-red radiation source comprising a tube of infra-red radiation transparent material containing an electrical conductor formed of carbon fibres, and connection means for connecting the conductor across an electrical power supply.

2. A source as claimed in Claim 1, in which the tube is sealed and evacuated.

3. A source as claimed in Claim 1, in which the tube is sealed and contains a gas at sub-atmospheric pressure.

4. A source as claimed in Claim 3, in which the gas is argon.

5. A source as claimed in Claim 1, in which the tube has an expansion chamber connected thereto, the tube and chamber together forming a sealed environment for the conductor.

6. A source as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the conductor is in the form of a flat strip.

7. A source as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the

tube is of ceramic material.

8. A source as claimed in Claim 7, in which the ceramic material is quartz.